

## SaniTyze™ Waterless Moisturizing Antimicrobial Gel (Project 03-28) (2/04)

SaniTyze™ waterless antimicrobial gel from Crosstex is formulated with 61% ethyl alcohol. The manufacturer claims it will kill 99% of bacteria in as little as 15 seconds and does not require water or towels. It contains emollients as well as dimethicone, aloe vera, and vitamin E to moisturize, condition, and soften skin. The manufacturer also claims that SaniTyze™ is free of petroleum-based products and completely compatible with latex.



Hand hygiene is the single most important infection control measure. However, adherence of health-care personnel (HCP) to recommended hand-hygiene procedures has been poor with an overall average rate of 40% in hospital settings, and although limited data are available for dental health-care personnel (DHCP), compliance rates appear to be similar.

Several self-reported factors for poor adherence to hand hygiene include: handwashing agents cause irritation and dryness; sinks are inconveniently located; lack of soap and paper towels; too busy, insufficient time; wearing of gloves; and low risk of acquiring infections from patients.



Alcohol-based hand rubs have been used extensively for years in Europe, however traditionally in the U.S. their use was limited to situations where soap and water were not available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now recommending alcohol-based hand products (i.e., preparations containing 60-95% alcohol) as an option for routine use, and not just when soap and water aren't

available. The CDC guideline states that alcohol-based handrubs significantly reduce the number of microorganisms on skin, are fast acting and cause less skin irritation. Alcohol-based hand rubs have been proven effective and they may help improve adherence to hand-hygiene protocols in many health-care settings. However alcohols are not appropriate for use when hands are visibly dirty, contaminated with proteinaceous material, or visibly soiled with blood or other body fluids. Since washing with either plain soap or an antimicrobial soap and water is indicated in this case, alcohol-based hand rubs will not replace the need for traditional hand-hygiene supplies (e.g., soap, sinks, paper towels).

### Manufacturer:

Crosstex International  
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Hauppauge, NY 11788-4209  
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(631) 582-2817 Government Sales  
(631) 582-6777  
(631) 582-1726 FAX  
[www.crosstex.com](http://www.crosstex.com)

### Suggested Retail Price (from a distributor):

\$66.96/Case of 24	4-oz SaniTyze™ bottle
\$175.84/Case of 16	18-oz SaniTyze™ pump
\$179.88/Case of 12	800 mL SaniTyze™ Press Pack
\$209.88/Case of 12	One Touch Dispenser

### Government Price (direct from Crosstex):

\$37.09/Case of 24	4-oz SaniTyze™ bottle (Item # JWG)
\$98.34/Case of 16	18-oz SaniTyze™ pump (Item # JWGP)
\$98.55/Case of 12	800 mL SaniTyze™ Press Pack (Item # WGEL)
\$110.94/Case of 12	One Touch Dispenser (Item # PGEL)

**ADVANTAGES:**

- + Fast-acting
- + Less time required compared to traditional handwashing/hand antisepsis
- + Alternative to handwashing with soap and water when hands are not visibly soiled
- + More accessible than sinks
- + May be useful on deployments
- + Potential to cause less dermatitis
- + Potential to increase hand-hygiene compliance

**DISADVANTAGES:**

- Cannot be used if hands are visibly soiled
- Wall-mounted dispenser may become partially blocked
- May be more expensive than plain or antimicrobial soap
- Flammability concerns

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:**

SaniTyze™ Waterless Moisturizing Antimicrobial Gel was well received by the clinical evaluators. It is convenient to use and minimizes time and materials needed for hand hygiene. Most evaluators found the product less irritating to their skin compared with soap and water. In dentistry, alcohol-based hand rubs may be useful in exam rooms or radiology work areas where multiple patients are seen in a short period of time and frequent handwashing is indicated. Another indication may be in dental residencies where staff members perform frequent patient checks. Careful evaluation and ongoing educational/motivational programs to maintain awareness of the importance of hand hygiene are indicated before deciding to introduce alcohol-based hand rubs or any new hand-hygiene product into a dental practice. The majority of evaluators (40 of 46) recommended purchasing SaniTyze™ for use in their clinics. **SaniTyze™** is rated **Acceptable** for use by the federal dental services as an option to routine hand hygiene when hands are not visibly soiled.